

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
10 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

JUDGE ZAGEL
MAGISTRATE JUDGE MASON

Dear Applicant:

Although we have completed the interview on your application we cannot make a decision on your case because the required security checks are incomplete. Once the background investigation is completed we will make and inform you of our decision as quickly as possible.

We understand that you may be frustrated by this news. However, in order to fulfill its mission to provide immigration benefits and services to the public, USCIS must balance its obligations to the individual applicant against its obligations to the public as a whole. Consequently, we have adopted enhanced security check procedures.

Given the significance of immigration benefits and the number of applications submitted, it is inevitable that some applications will require more attention than others. Some factors that may lead to delays are the volume of record checks, the number of records to be checked and the processing of common names. For the vast majority of applicants, USCIS is able to quickly determine whether there is any criminal or security related eligibility issues. In the remaining cases, often referred to as "pending," a match of some kind has been identified and must be resolved before a decision can be made on the case. However, a match does not always lead to a denial of the application. USCIS does not share information regarding the specific nature of the match or the nature or status of any investigation with applicants or their representatives.

We remain committed to processing cases within a reasonable period of time. In some cases, however, unresolved security concerns will create delays. We ask for your patience in such cases, and in return we promise to continue to seek resolution as quickly as possible in each individual case.

Sincerely,

District Director



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NOTE TO APPLICANTS REGARDING NATIONAL SECURITY CHECKS

A final decision cannot be made on any application for naturalization or adjustment of status to permanent resident until national security checks are complete and the local USCIS office receives a response.

National security checks are performed by federal agencies other than the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Your local USCIS office has no control over the pace of completion of these required checks.

At any given time, there are many hundreds of this office's cases pending due to national security checks. A significant portion of these checks takes more than six months to complete. At the USCIS Chicago District Office, cases with pending security checks are queried every week to ensure that those whose checks have cleared are acted on in a timely manner.

The USCIS Chicago District Office requests that you wait at least 120 days from the date of your interview before making an inquiry regarding the status of your case, if you have been advised at your interview that your security check (or name check) is pending. Your cooperation helps us to use office personnel more efficiently to complete your case and others that are pending.

USCIS thanks you for your patience and understanding in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Comfort".

Michael M. Comfort
District Director